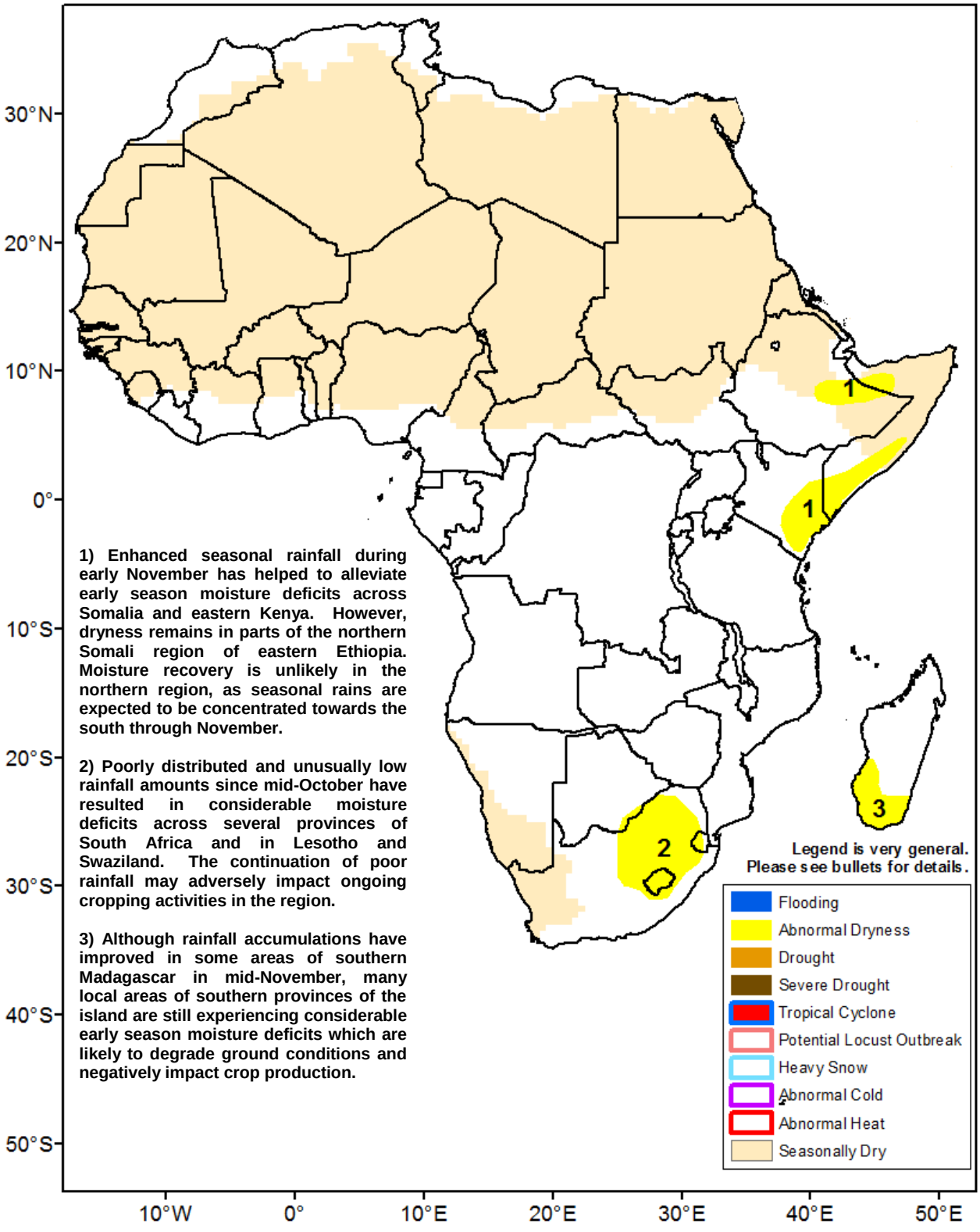
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
November 30 – December 6, 2017

- **Drier moisture conditions prevail across the Greater Horn as season nears its end in December.**
- **Increased rains in late November helps improve early season dryness across South Africa and Madagascar.**



1) Enhanced seasonal rainfall during early November has helped to alleviate early season moisture deficits across Somalia and eastern Kenya. However, dryness remains in parts of the northern Somali region of eastern Ethiopia. Moisture recovery is unlikely in the northern region, as seasonal rains are expected to be concentrated towards the south through November.

2) Poorly distributed and unusually low rainfall amounts since mid-October have resulted in considerable moisture deficits across several provinces of South Africa and in Lesotho and Swaziland. The continuation of poor rainfall may adversely impact ongoing cropping activities in the region.

3) Although rainfall accumulations have improved in some areas of southern Madagascar in mid-November, many local areas of southern provinces of the island are still experiencing considerable early season moisture deficits which are likely to degrade ground conditions and negatively impact crop production.

Little relief to seasonal dryness observed in Kenya and Tanzania.

During the last week, a small increase in rainfall was observed across central and southern Somalia, with continued low amounts throughout Kenya and in parts of neighboring Tanzania. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations were received over the Lake Victoria region, with well distributed moderate amounts (>25mm) over northwestern Tanzania, with patches of lesser amounts (2-25mm) received over southwestern Ethiopia, Somalia and southern Kenya (**Figure 1**).

Since the beginning of October, several consecutive weeks of suppressed rainfall resulted in early season dryness throughout many regions of the Horn. By early November, the onset of significantly heavy rainfall affecting parts of southern Ethiopia, Somalia and northern Kenya helped to offset the anomalous dryness, however, these enhanced seasonal rains were short-lived and were not sufficiently well distributed to improve dryness being experienced in southern portions of Kenya and Tanzania. Analysis of the rainfall performance during November suggests driest conditions located in the Isiolo, Marsabit, southern Wajir, Garissa, Tana, Kitui, Makueni regions of Kenya, and in the Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions of Tanzania (**Figure 2**). The continuation of suppressed rainfall is expected to negatively impact ground conditions in these areas.

During the next seven days, models suggest a more seasonable distribution of rainfall during early December with amounts ranging between 10-25mm over Kenya and Tanzania, with the potential for locally heavy rains over the Lake Victoria region.

More seasonable rainfall received throughout southern Africa.

Over the past several weeks, the lack of early season rainfall over South Africa has resulted in the development of widespread moisture deficits spanning several provinces of the country, with a noted strengthening of dryness in the western portion of the Maize Triangle. An increase in rainfall was observed during the last week did help to provide moisture relief on the short-term, however, several local areas in the North West, Gauteng, Free State Limpopo region of South Africa, and neighboring regions of Botswana remain below average (25-80 percent of normal) since the end of October (**Figure 2**). An enhancement of rainfall in the next few weeks is needed to further eliminate early season moisture deficits, and avoid any negative impacts on cropping activities.

In Madagascar, moisture relief also continued during the last week, as some central and eastern provinces of the island received significantly heavy accumulations during the last week. More moderate and widespread rainfall accumulations were received in the south, however persistently poor rains during September and October have left many coastal areas in southern Madagascar below-average for the season. Forecasts suggest an enhancement in seasonal rainfall during early December.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: November 22 – November 28, 2017

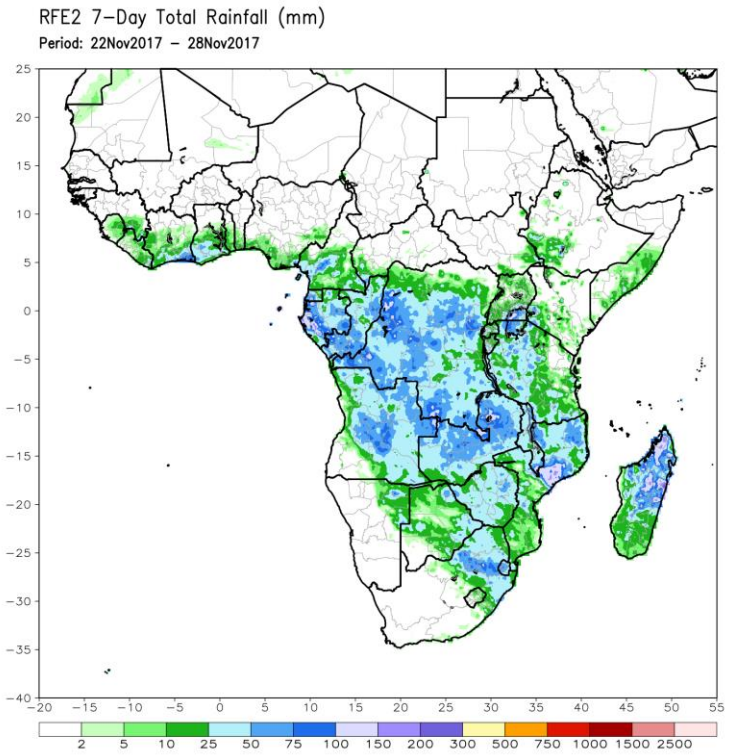


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: October 1 – November 28, 2017

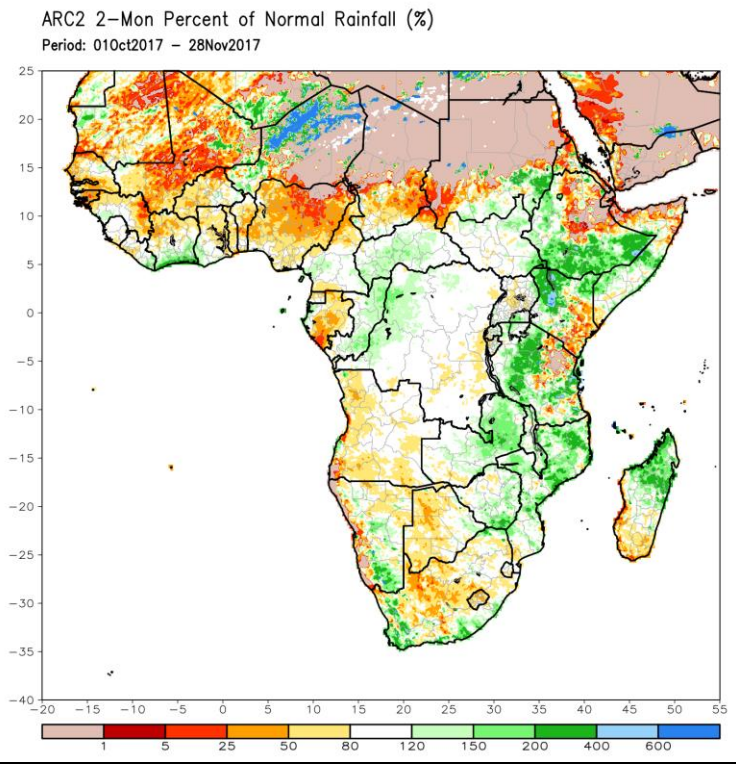


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.